

MDCCCXXXII).” Both these statements doubtless refer to the reprint with this same title page. A glance at the Edinburgh edition, volume I, will show that it differs widely from the others typographically, particularly noticeable on the title page, introduction and index.

The Boston edition of Volume II seems to have been more generally overlooked. However, Coues mentions it after quoting the Edinburgh Volume II and says, “Other copies said to also bear the imprint ‘Boston, Hilliard, Gray and Company, MDCCCXXXV.’” This issue is a reprint typographically distinct from the Edinburgh Volume II, “Entered according to the Act of Congress in the year 1835 by Victor Gifford Audubon and John Woodhouse Audubon in the Clerk’s office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.” It is dated on the title page: Boston | Hilliard, Gray and Company | MDCCCXXXV. The few portions of the text which I have examined are identical with the original.

Perhaps more interesting are the various plates of the Elephant Folio which Mr. Stone has reviewed at length. I have seen from time to time several of these plates, evidently from the original coppers, not numbered and bearing no engraver’s signature but in the lower left-hand corner the words, “Drawn from Nature and Coloured by J. J. Audubon F. R. S., F. L. S.” The plates lettered in this manner which I have personally examined are those of Least Stormy Petrel, California Partridge, Canvas-back Duck, and the one figuring Lazuli Finch, Clay Colored Finch and Oregon Snow Finch. These plates are very finely colored and several persons with whom I have talked that have seen them or similar ones share with me the belief that they were probably used for exhibition purposes — F. B. McKECHNIE, *Ponkapog, Mass.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Chapman’s ‘The Warblers of North America.’¹ — The North American ‘Wood Warblers,’ or family Mniotiltidæ, are here treated monographically from the standpoint of their life-histories, and an attempt is made to set forth our present knowledge of the habits, migrations, breeding and winter ranges of each species and subspecies of this most interesting and attractive family of birds. Each species is illustrated in color from drawings by two of our most skillful bird artists, Fuertes and Horsfall,

¹ The Warblers | of | North America | By | Frank M. Chapman | with the Coöperation of other Ornithologists | With twenty-four, full-page colored plates, illustrating | every species, from drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes | and Bruce Horsfall, and half-tones | of nests and eggs | [Monogram] New York | D. Appleton & Company | 1907—8vo, pp. i–viii, 1–306, 24 col. pll., 12 half-tone pll. March, 1907. \$3.00.

and the twelve half-tone plates include characteristic nests of eight species, and 122 figures of eggs. The plan and aim of the work and the manner of its preparation are explained in the 'introduction' (pp. 1-6), where also acknowledgments are made to the thirty-six co-workers who have contributed much valuable and hitherto unpublished material. There is a Chapter on 'Migration' (pp. 14-20) by W. W. Cooke, who has also furnished the very extensive migration tables which form an important feature of the book, and also most of the paragraphs on distribution; the chapter on 'The Food of Warblers' (pp. 23-32) is by E. H. Forbush.

The generalities of the subject occupy some thirty pages (pp. 7-36), and treat, under special subheadings, the general characters, plumage, distribution, migration, songs, nesting habits, food, and the mortality of Warblers. The family Mniotiltidae is stated to contain approximately 155 species, distributed in summer from Argentina to Labrador and northern Alaska, and in winter restricted mainly to the region south of the southern border of the United States. The distribution and probable origin of each genus is considered in detail, the results of the analysis giving prominence to many facts of special interest. Under 'Mortality among Warblers' the death-rate is shown to be relatively high, due mainly to unfavorable conditions encountered during their long migrations; some species, as the Blackpoll Warbler, rarely breeding south of Canada or wintering north of northern South America. The shortest journey of this species, according to Mr. Cooke, is 3,500 miles, "while those that nest in Alaska have 7,000 miles to travel to their probable winter home in Brazil."

The 55 species and 19 subspecies found north of Mexico are treated in systematic sequence, after the following method: (1) the A. O. U. Check-List English and technical names; (2) distinguishing characters of male, female, and young, both in spring and fall (briefly but discriminately presented, and printed in small type); (3) general distribution; (4) summer range; (5) winter range; (6) spring migration; (7) fall migration (with migration tables under each); (8) the bird and its haunts; (9) song; (10) nesting site; (11) nest; (12) eggs; (13) nesting dates; (14) bibliographical references (as cited in the text). The work is thus so detailed and so methodically arranged that any desired topic is readily found. The bibliographical references relate mainly to special articles treating of the habits of the species in question, mostly of recent date, in scientific journals and magazines; the quotations are in the exact words of the author, and are not paraphrases; and specially contributed matter is duly indicated and accredited. The author has been able to draw largely from his own personal knowledge, and little is omitted that could be useful to the reader. Although non-technical, the matter is scientifically all that could be demanded, and is thus not only adapted to the amateur, but is a source of information for the expert. In view of the 124 colored figures, analytical keys are deemed unnecessary. The colored plates have already, been published in 'Bird Lore,' where most of the migration matter also originally appeared, but otherwise the work is wholly new.

Taken all in all, 'The Warblers of North America' reaches a high standard of excellence, and sets a model future writers may well emulate. The many excellent colored figures of the birds and beautiful half-tones of nests and eggs admirably supplement the carefully prepared text.—J. A. A.

Alphéraky's 'The Geese of Europe and Asia.'—In the present work¹ are described and figured all of the known species and subspecies of Palearctic Geese, twenty-two in number. The work was originally published in Russian, in 1904, under the title 'Gusi Rossii,' and it is now most welcome in its English dress. The author has evidently enjoyed great opportunities, both in the field and in the amount of material open to him for investigation, as a preparation for the present work, with which he expresses dissatisfaction, inasmuch as he has failed to realize his ideal in respect to its completeness and finality. Yet it is a most important contribution to our knowledge of an imperfectly known field in ornithology.

The generalities of the subject, given in the introduction, are followed by an elaborate key to the genera, species and subspecies, and this by the systematic descriptions, two appendices, and the index. The descriptions of the species, including the various plumages, are very detailed, the bibliographical references are very full, especially to Russian authors, and the geographical distribution and biographies appear to be worked out with great care and thoroughness. The work thus abounds with exceedingly valuable information, not elsewhere given in such connected and convenient form. The author believes Buturlin's subgenus *Melanonyx* to be worthy of generic recognition, and adopts it for the Bean Goose group; he is also liberal in his recognition of species and subspecies, and thus is very attentive to technical details, which adds value to his work, whether or not all his conclusions are accepted. His recognition of differences resulting from age and individual differentiation tend to give confidence in his estimate of the value of differences he ascribes to other causes.

Appendix I is a valuable paper by Mr. G. F. Göbel on the Eggs of Russian Geese, which Mr. Alphéraky says "affords the only satisfactory basis for further oölogical investigations in the subfamily Auserinæ," and deals with the structure of the shell as well as with the color and size of the egg. Tables of the weight (of the shell), the breadth and length of the eggs of the Anserinæ are given as an important aid in determining the species.

¹ The Geese of Europe | and Asia | being a Description of most of the | Old World Species | By | Sergius Alphéraky | Corresponding Member of the Zoological Section of the Imperial Academy of Science, St. Petersburg; | Hon. Member of the Russian Entomological Society; Member of the Imperial | Russian Geographical Society, etc., etc. | With twenty-four coloured plates by F. W. Frohawk | F. E. S., M. B. O. U. | and | frontispiece by Dr. P. P. Sushkin | London: Rowland Ward, Ltd. | "The Jungle," Piccadilly | M C M. V—4to, pp. i-ix, 1-198, col. frontispiece, 24 col. pll., and 16 text figures.